

To sum up: This is an informed, reliable, up-to-date, and comprehensive source of information concerning the state of sociolinguistic research—though in Chambers' circumscribed scope, that is, treating in considerable detail language variation but little else.

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Language Endangerment and Language Maintenance. David and Maya Bradley, eds. London: RoutledgeCurzon (Taylor & Francis Group), 2002. xx + 356 pp.

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Over the last five years, there has been a noticeable growth in interest in the related topics of language endangerment and language maintenance. Alongside scholarly works such as David Crystal's *Language Death* (Cambridge University Press, 2000), *Vanishing Voices—The Extinction of the World's Languages* (Daniel Nettle and Suzanne Romaine, Oxford University Press, 2000) and most recently *Language Death and Language Maintenance: Theoretical, Practical and Descriptive Approaches* (Mark Janse and Sijmen Tol, eds., John Benjamins, 2003), the popular print media and radio in both Europe and North America frequently interview linguists working with endangered language communities. David and Maya Bradley's *Language Endangerment and Language Maintenance* is a recent contribution to this growing field of academic inquiry.

The volume is a diverse collection of twenty chapters by different authors, which grew out of a joint Australian Research Council Project culminating in a symposium at La Trobe University in Melbourne, Australia, in 1999, the institutional home of the two editors. The chapters do not explicitly draw on one another in terms of content, nor do the chapters cohere around a theoretical or empirical standpoint. The result is a slightly irregular volume. Nevertheless, this collection provides a diversity of opinion and subject matter. In their introduction and conclusion, the editors have done an excellent job of presenting the subtleties of language preservation policies with the care and nuance which such politically sensitive topics deserve.

The now sadly deceased Stephen A. Wurm, Emeritus Professor of Linguistics and Research Director at the Australian National University, sets the volume off to a good start with a chapter on strategies for language maintenance and revival. Along with some sensible if rather self-evident suggestions, Wurm also advances some less orthodox theories, including "rewarding" children for using words from a threatened language with "small gifts, e.g., sweets" (p. 21). Chapter 5, by Anders Ahlqvist on Irish and Finland Swedish, offers a charming insight into the symbolic power of language: "a good example . . . is provided by the announcements made by flight attendants on the national airline Aer Lingus. These usually start in Irish with polite phrases to welcome passengers, followed by the same phrases in English. The obviously much more important safety announcements are then given in English only" (p. 47).

Discussing Sm'algayax, the Tsimshian language, Tonya Stebbins makes a number of interesting points. From the Tsimshian point of view, taking an active role in language preservation "is to make a contribution to the struggle for social justice" (p. 69). Purely academic language research, then, is viewed as an "insult to the community because it is considered to perpetuate the appropriation of Tsimshian knowledge begun with the removal of ceremonial objects for museum collections last century" (p. 69). This perspective illustrates the politicized nature of linguistic research and is further echoed in the Bradleys' conclusion (see below).

Kate Burridge's chapter on Pennsylvania German is one of the strongest in the collection. Tightly written, engagingly analytical and studded with intriguing details, Burridge's chapter makes a persuasive case for the suggestion that the "secret of the language's survival must surely lie in its symbolic value" (p. 213). It is on account of the fact that "so-called low-prestige language varieties usually have values for their speakers which are quite different from those associated with the more overtly prestigious varieties" that speakers of these languages,

held together by a strong sense of group solidarity, show “surprisingly strong resistance against the more powerful standard dialects” (p. 213). BurrIDGE skillfully demonstrates how Pennsylvania German has long provided an important barrier to the outside world, allowing both insider identification and perhaps more importantly, separation from the outside. Building on Nancy Dorian’s insights, BurrIDGE concludes that linguistic survival is directly linked to the absence of purist attitudes toward spoken language: Structural compromise is a sign of health which enhances the chances of a language’s survival (p. 219).

Language maintenance among the Hmong ex-refugee communities is addressed by Christina Eira, who demonstrates that the “Hmong language in the west is undergoing a concentrated standardisation effort which is not paralleled in Asia” (p. 235). This standardization is fuelled in part by the need for the language to be deployed in modern communication and publication technologies, in turn resulting in a number of lexical extensions and neologisms.

Chapters 18 and 19 focus on the socio-political aspects of language endangerment. Nicholas Thieberger addresses identity formation, in particular the reification and interpretation of language as an identity marker. He demonstrates that in their efforts at reviving a language, Aboriginal people may instead be recreating it (p. 321). In this sense, Aboriginal languages are increasingly valued as a link with “an idealised harmonious past” (p. 314) rather than as a primary medium of communication. The coauthors of chapter 19 are prudent to point out the tension between language documentation and language maintenance projects (p. 329). While the term “preservation” is often summoned to counteract the negative influence of “language endangerment,” the use of this turn of phrase requires further unpacking to be analytically useful. Many who invoke these terms are not sufficiently mindful of the difference which exists between “preserving a language for science in the future by documenting it, and preserving it for the speakers as a living language by helping them maintain it” (p. 329). This distinction is returned to by the editors, who conclude their useful and timely volume with a much-needed critique of “hit and run fieldwork,” in which linguists “collect the data, get out, publish with academic publishers in a first-world language, get an academic job and leave the speakers of ‘their’ EL [endangered language] to their own devices” (p. 351). In all, this book is a very readable and well-produced hardback for a student audience interested in language endangerment.

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Language Contact and Language Conflict in Arabic: Variations on a Sociolinguistic Theme.

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Incorporating an international group of authors who discuss Arabic usage in the Middle East, North Africa, Europe, and the United States, this edited volume takes a broad look at Arabic-speaking communities. In the tradition of contemporary sociolinguistics, the authors examine linguistic practices particular to the Arabic language family, specifically those practices related to diglossia, religion, and Arab nationalism, in which Arabic varieties are in contact with each other or with other languages. Unlike many previous works in the field of Arabic linguistics, Rouchdy’s collection includes both theoretical discussions of variation in Arabic as well as studies of practice in literature, performance, and conversation. The variety of articles and topics makes this a useful text for any researcher in the field of Arabic sociolinguistics.

Language Contact is arranged into four parts. The first part, “Diglossia and Language Planning,” consists of five articles. First, John C. Eisele addresses diglossia as an ideological state of being, reinforced through discourse among specialists and more broadly through practice based on that discourse. Next, Maik Gibson explores dialect leveling in Tunisian Arabic, extrapolating specific variables to question and analyze the influence of Modern Standard Arabic on Tunisian Arabic. Enam Al Wer addresses education as a corollary to variation in